

# what's new SUMMER '06 IN CALIFORNIA



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## Editor's Note

There is always something new and exciting in California. As your resource for statewide news, the California Travel and Tourism Commission (CTTC) is pleased to present this release describing new developments taking place in the various regions of the Golden State. Consumers can get free California travel planning information by visiting CTTC's Web site at [www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com) or by writing to the address above.

Residents of the United States and Canada can also receive travel planning information by calling (800) 862-2543. International travelers need to dial (916) 444-4429.



## California State Parks Announces Golden Poppy Pass

California State

Parks recently announced the Golden Poppy Pass, an annual day use pass designed to provide visitors convenience and cost savings. For those who frequent state parks, the Golden Poppy Pass costs \$90 per year and provides parking and day use admission to 98 select parks and reservoirs. The list of Golden Poppy Pass parks includes most inland parks, along with Seacliff State Beach and New Brighton State Beach. A complete list is available online. Media contact: Sheryl Tankersley, California State Parks, (916) 654-7538. Public contact: [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).

## Fishing Passport

Load up those tackle boxes, rods and reels because the California Department of Fish and Game has announced the California Fishing Passport—a new fishing incentive and angler recognition program. With over 1,100 miles of ocean coastline, 4,175 lakes and reservoirs, 29,700 miles of streams and rivers and 1,800 miles of bay and delta waters, California has more fishing opportunities than any other state in the country. With the passport as a guide, anglers will be challenged to catch one of all of the different sport fish species that occur in the state. As participants fish their way around the state, they'll receive stamps for each of the passport species caught, and prizes and incentives will be awarded to anglers for various levels of achievement. The program starts for kids June 10, the first free fishing day of the year; however the official program launch for anglers of all ages will be January 1, 2007. Media contact:

Carrie Wilson, California Department  
of Fish and Game, (831) 649-7191,  
[cwilson@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:cwilson@dfg.ca.gov). Public contact:  
[www.dfg.ca.gov/fishingpassport](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fishingpassport).

## Southern California CityPass

CityPass has expanded its Southern California CityPass to include Universal Studios Hollywood, Disneyland Park and Disney's California Adventure Park, SeaWorld Adventure Theme Park in San Diego, and the San Diego Zoo. The pass will continue to include an option ticket for the San Diego Zoo or San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park. Also included is a Disney 3-Day Park Hopper Bonus ticket for three days at Disneyland or California Adventure Park and the bonus of early admission to a designated theme park on one day. The pass is valid for 14 days from its first use and costs \$199 for adult admission (a \$291 value) and \$159 for youth tickets, ages three to nine (a \$229 value). Media contact: Susan Wilson, CityPass, (888) 299-6633 or (480) 513-4776, [susanw@citypass.com](mailto:susanw@citypass.com). Public contact: (208) 787-4300 or (888) 330-5008, [www.citypass.com](http://www.citypass.com).

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### State Parks Opens Expanded E-Store

California State Parks has announced the launch of the newly expanded E-store at <http://store.parks.ca.gov>, offering a wide variety of maps and guides for those planning travel, state parks permits and passes, and souvenirs for those interested in lasting memories of a state park vacation. The site will offer a broad selection of park apparel, official maps, books, CDs and DVDs, patches, backpacks, hats and travel mugs. California State Parks are visited by 75 million visitors a year. The effort is a public/private partnership with PRIDE Industries, based in Roseville, California, who will operate the online store, including web maintenance, customer service, order fulfillment and distribution. Media contact: Sheryl Tankersley, California State Parks, (916) 654-7538 or Rachele Burton, PRIDE Industries, (916) 788-2130. Public contact: <http://store.parks.gov> or [www.prideindustries.com](http://www.prideindustries.com).



### Hampton Inn & Suites to Open in Redding

A three-story, 80 guest room Hampton Inn & Suites recently opened in

Redding. The hotel features Spanish/Mediterranean style architecture and unique interior furnishings. Of the 80 rooms, 36 are studio suites, including a wet bar, and some suites have a whirlpool tub as well. All rooms are equipped with a coffee maker, refrigerator, microwave, iron, hairdryer and high-speed Internet access. Guest amenities also include use of the exercise room, heated pool and spa, business center, meeting room, and the "On the House" hot breakfast. In addition, many of the rooms have beautiful views of Mt. Shasta and Lassen Peak. Media contact: Karen Whitaker, Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association, (530) 365-7504, [karen@shastacascade.org](mailto:karen@shastacascade.org). Public contact: Hampton Inn & Suites, (530) 224-1001, [www.reddingsuites.hamptoninn.com](http://www.reddingsuites.hamptoninn.com).

### Lavender Farm to Open This Summer

Owners of the Mt. Shasta Lavender Farm, David McGee-Williams and Gail Winslow, traveled all the way to France to do research about lavender farms. They are pleased to announce that the farm will now be open seven days a week to the public. Guests can freely walk through the fragrant fields, cut their own lavender, take photos or paint, ask questions, or simply relax with a glass of lavender lemonade. The 8.5 acre farm sits on 800 acres and is backdropped by spectacular views of Mt. Shasta and the valley. There are two types of lavender to choose from—Lavandula Angustifolia (English Lavender) and Lavandula x Intermedia (French Lavender). A third Australian variety has been planted. The anticipated opening date is June 17. Media contact: Karen Whitaker, Shasta Cascade Wonderland, (530) 365-7504, [karen@shastacascade.org](mailto:karen@shastacascade.org), [www.shastacascade.com](http://www.shastacascade.com). Public contact: Phil Stedman, Mt. Shasta Lavender Farms, (530) 926-2651, [info@shastalavender.com](mailto:info@shastalavender.com), [www.shastalavender.com](http://www.shastalavender.com).

### Sculpture Park at City Hall Unveiled

Redding, a city committed to art in public places, has unveiled the new Sculpture Park at City Hall. The 2.5 acre park features a diversity of artwork created by various artists from throughout the world including abstract to contemporary realism as well as mosaiculture. Artists represented in the park include Korean artist Yongjin Han and Montana artist Zak Zakovi whose stonework is of the Stela genre or "standing story stone" artwork. Visitors to the park will find two manicured gardens to enjoy as well—the Bellaflora Gallery and the California Gallery. Media contact: Bob Warren, Redding Convention & Visitors Bureau, (530) 225-4485. Public contact: City of Redding, (530) 225-4002, [www.ci.redding.ca.us](http://www.ci.redding.ca.us).

### The Titan—Luxury Houseboating at Shasta Lake

The houseboat capital of the world has a new addition to its fleet. The Titan is Jones Valley Resort's extraordinary new houseboat and is a triple-deck, 65-foot vessel that sleeps 22 people comfortably. The Titan offers the finest in comfort and entertainment including a widescreen TV, home theater system, tracking

satellite, fireplace and full wet bar with a temperature-controlled wine cabinet, all integrated in just the main salon. The main deck has four private staterooms, two full baths, and the second story, created to offer privacy and space, provides one private stateroom and one master suite with its own entertainment system, coffee maker, fridge, microwave and private deck area. All staterooms have flat screen TVs, DVDs and XM capability. Guests can relax in the sunken eight-person hot tub or take an exhilarating ride down the enclosed spiral tube waterslide. Media contact: Karen Whitaker, Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association, (530) 365-7504, [karen@shastacascade.org](mailto:karen@shastacascade.org). Public contact: Jones Valley Resort, 877-4-SHASTA (742782) or (530) 275-7950, [www.houseboats.com](http://www.houseboats.com).

### Turtle Bay Museum has New Exhibition

Redding's Turtle Bay Exploration Park is hosting a new exhibition, "Stormy Weather: The Climate Change Adventure" May 9 to October 29. The exhibit includes a multimedia theater and examines this serious, contemporary challenge in a humorous way. Visitors will discover the differences between human and natural influenced climate changes and the positive steps that humans and technology can take. Media contact: Angela Torretta, Turtle Bay Exploration Park, (530) 242-3143, [atoretta@turtlebay.org](mailto:atoretta@turtlebay.org). Public contact: (530) 243-8850 or (800) 887-8532, [info@turtlebay.org](mailto:info@turtlebay.org), [www.turtlebay.org](http://www.turtlebay.org).

### WaterWorks Park

WaterWorks Park in Redding is opening Memorial Day Weekend (May 27–29) and will help families stay cool in the summer heat. As the north state's premier water park, WaterWorks Park has numerous waterslides and kiddie pools for all ages, from slides for the adventurous such as the new "Cyclone" where riders drop five stories in an enclosed flume, shooting and spinning through pools of water, to the more relaxing slides such as "Lazy Lagoon." Families can make a day of it, resting under the safari tent, enjoying the food and beverage facilities and braving the water slides in the lifeguard supervised park. WaterWorks is open Memorial Day weekend (May 27–29) to Labor Day weekend (September 2–4). Media contact: Karen Whitaker, Shasta

Cascade Wonderland, (530) 365-7504, [karen@shastacascade.org](mailto:karen@shastacascade.org), [www.shastacascade.com](http://www.shastacascade.com). Public contact: WaterWorks Park, (530) 246-9550, [www.waterworkspark.com](http://www.waterworkspark.com).



### 1888 Hopland Inn Restored

Following a \$2 million restoration, Hopland's Hopland Inn will be welcoming guests again Memorial Day weekend (May 27–29). The 21-

room hotel's brick-and-mortar foundation has been retrofitted, the redwood deck replaced and the interior giving a nod to its Victorian-era roots. The restaurant will emphasize fresh, local ingredients with most products made in-house. Chef Shaun Behrens says he'll even be making his own catsup. Media contact: Sharon Rooney, (707) 838-1637, [sjrooney@aol.com](mailto:sjrooney@aol.com). Public contact: Hopland Inn, (707) 744-1890, [www.hoplandinn.com](http://www.hoplandinn.com).

### Fern Cottage to Open for Tours

Fern Cottage in the Victorian Village of Ferndale is a 30-room home built by pioneers Joseph and Zipporah Russ in 1866 and will now be open for tours. Joseph Russ arrived to San Francisco in 1850 from Maine and moved to Humboldt County. His wife-to-be, Zipporah Patrick, came overland by covered wagon at about the same time. They married and as their family grew, built Fern Cottage. Fern Cottage is on the National Register of Historic Places. The tours start June 17 to Labor Day (September 4) and are daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cottage has new catering facilities and can accommodate special events. Media and public contact: Irene Hannaford, Ferndale Chamber of Commerce, (707) 786-4477, [ihh1325@aol.com](mailto:ihh1325@aol.com), [www.victorianferndale.org/chamber](http://www.victorianferndale.org/chamber).

### Elk Meadow Village

Nestled in the heart of Redwood National and State Parks, Elk Meadow Village is opening its doors June 1. Originally an old lumber camp, this new vacation destination has been completely renovated and is now offering visitors three-bedroom, two-bath cabins, complete with furnishings, linens

and games. The interior is new, but the original rustic design of the cabins and their redwood framework has been conserved. Visitors can hike down trails amongst the ancient redwood forest and return to the privacy of their own cabin. Media contact: Holly Weick, Humboldt County Convention and Visitors Bureau, (707) 443-5097, [press@redwoodvisitor.org](mailto:press@redwoodvisitor.org). Public contact: Elk Meadow Village, (707) 845-7668, [redwoodranger@gmail.com](mailto:redwoodranger@gmail.com).

### Maritime Museum Sails to New Destination

The Humboldt Bay Maritime Museum, formed in the late 1970s, moved early this year and now resides in Samoa. The move allows the museum more space for their growing collection of artifacts. The museum now has several rooms with designated themes, ranging from Humboldt Maritime history, the U.S. Coast Guard and more. The Humboldt Bay Maritime Museum also operates the M.V. Madaket, the oldest passenger carrying vessel in continuous operation in the United States. Visitors can sail through Humboldt Bay on 75-minute narrated, cocktail or Sunday brunch cruises. Media contact: Holly Weick, Humboldt County Convention and Visitors Bureau, (707) 443-5097, [press@redwoodvisitor.org](mailto:press@redwoodvisitor.org). Public contact: (707) 444-9440, [www.redwoodvisitor.org](http://www.redwoodvisitor.org).

### Sequoia Park Zoo Completes Improvements, Additions

The remodeling and construction of the new "Secrets of the Garden" exhibit and the Wells Fargo Kids Koop and Barnyard at Eureka's Sequoia Park Zoo are complete. Children can now find out what it's like to milk a goat, drive a tractor and more at the barnyard. The "Secrets of the Garden" exhibit educates visitors about the wonders of the local forest ecosystems including information regarding habitats, the Humboldt Bay watershed, a field biologist station and nine new animals including native snakes, salamanders, turtles, termites and banana slugs. Media contact Holly Weick, Humboldt County Convention & Visitors Bureau, (707) 443-5097, [press@redwoodvisitor.org](mailto:press@redwoodvisitor.org), [www.redwoodvisitor.org](http://www.redwoodvisitor.org). Public contact: Sequoia Park Zoo, (707) 441-4227.

### Skunk Train Steam Engine Celebration

In Willits, the very first Steam Engine Celebration will be hosted by the Skunk Train September 22–27. Highlights include "double-header" steam trips, with the Skunk Train pulled by its very own Old 45 steam locomotive and another steam engine. The celebration will also allow passengers to exit the train for special photo opportunities. Fare and departure times vary. Media contact: Fred Sater, Fred Sater Communications, (916) 972-1650, [fredsaterpr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fredsaterpr@sbcglobal.net). Public contact: Skunk Train, (707) 964-6371 or (800) 866-1690, [www.skunktrain.com](http://www.skunktrain.com).

### Sonoma County Art Gallery Guide

The Sonoma County Gallery Group (SCGG) has released the first annual Sonoma County Art Gallery Guide including a listing of galleries as well as detailed road map. Sonoma galleries offer visitors and residents alike a glimpse of the county's rich variety of nationally and internationally recognized artists and artisan craftsmen—from conceptual art pioneers to master painters, sculptors, printmakers and photographers. The guide is available free at member galleries and available by request at [www.scgg.org](http://www.scgg.org) or by calling (707) 887-0799. Media contact: Sherry Huss, Sonoma County Gallery Group, (707) 874-9407, [sherry\\_huss@yahoo.com](mailto:sherry_huss@yahoo.com). Public contact: (707) 887-0799, [www.scgg.org](http://www.scgg.org).



### Chaminade Resort and Spa Renovation Complete

In Santa Cruz, Chaminade Resort and

Spa has completed its \$6 million renovation to result in their newly designed 156 guest rooms, including 44 suites, new contemporary Spanish furnishings, granite bathrooms and innovative interior design. The resort has an interesting history—starting with its namesake Father William Joseph Chaminade, who founded the Marianist Society in the 1700s. In 1930, Chaminade Boys High School opened at the site and during WWII, Chaminade became a center for training priests in the Marianist



order, until the 1970s when it became a religious retreat. After being acquired in 1979, it was converted into a hotel and conference facility and today stands as a modern resort, ready to accommodate conference needs or a leisure traveler. Chaminade Resort and Spa also recently started to offer full-day and half-day wine tours, including transportation, a narrated wine tour, tasting at three wineries in the Santa Cruz Mountains and a gourmet picnic lunch in a custom personalized picnic basket. Media contact: Christina Glynn, Santa Cruz County Conference and Visitors Council, (831) 429-7281 x112. Public contact: Chaminade Resort and Spa, (800) 283-6569 or (831) 475-5600, [chaminadeinfo@benchmarkmanagement.com](mailto:chaminadeinfo@benchmarkmanagement.com), [www.chaminade.com](http://www.chaminade.com).

#### **de Young Museum**

Now in its new state-of-the-art facility in its original location at Golden Gate Park, San Francisco's de Young Museum has a number of intriguing exhibits planned. Through June 25, the new de Young's Connections Gallery program will feature works by John Bankson. The program is conceived to enable visitors to make connections through strong, visual experiences. Working in drawing and painting, Bankson uses museum objects as visual iconography, creating a fantasy world out of cross-cultural juxtapositions. In this way, he allows museum visitors to reimagine their worlds by mobilizing the desires that the diverse art objects arouse. Also, from March 18 to June 18, "International Arts and Crafts: From William Morris to Frank Lloyd Wright" will trace the development of the arts and crafts movement from its flourishing in Britain in the 1880s to its interpretation and development in America, continental Europe and Japan. This will be the first exhibition ever to explore arts and crafts internationally. The exhibition includes 300 masterworks in all media including furniture, textiles, metalwork, ceramics and glass. It will also include photography, paintings, prints, sculptures and architecture. Media contact: Barbara Traisman, de Young Museum, (415) 750-3620, [bttraisman@famsf.org](mailto:bttraisman@famsf.org). Public contact: (415) 750-3614, [www.thinker.org](http://www.thinker.org).

#### **Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley Opens**

Located at the gateway to Palo Alto and just five minutes from Stanford University, the Four Seasons Hotel recently opened and offers service and style in the heart of the high-tech capital of the world. The ten-story building houses 200 rooms and suites with floor-to-ceiling windows that provide dramatic views of the Santa Cruz Mountains and San Francisco Bay, 42½-inch plasma televisions with HDTV programming, WiFi Internet, expansive desk/work space and spacious marble bathrooms. Other features include the roof top lap pool, fitness centre and spa, and Quattro Restaurant and Bar. Media contact: Robert Whitfield, Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley, (650) 566-1200, [robert.whitfield@fourseasons.com](mailto:robert.whitfield@fourseasons.com). Public contact: (650) 566-1200, [www.fourseasons.com/siliconvalley](http://www.fourseasons.com/siliconvalley).

#### **JetBlue Announces New Daily Nonstop to Fort Lauderdale from Oakland**

JetBlue now operates 16 daily flights to five nonstop destinations from Oakland, adding Fort Lauderdale to the existing list of Boston, Long Beach, New York (JFK) and Washington, DC (Dulles). The flight departs from Oakland International Airport (OAK) at 11:45 p.m. and arrives the next day at 8:05 a.m. to Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL). Floridians traveling to Oakland depart FLL at 7:25 p.m. and arrive to OAK at 10:50 p.m. Media contact: Rosemary Barnes, Oakland International Airport, (510) 563-2892. Public contact: JetBlue, (800) JETBLUE, [www.jetblue.com](http://www.jetblue.com) or Oakland International Airport, (510) 563-3300, [www.oaklandairport.com](http://www.oaklandairport.com).

#### **Mare Island Historic Park**

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation's tours now include a display in the 1855 museum of a portion of over 4,000 artifacts left behind when the Navy closed Mare Island in 1996. The exhibits include the figurehead of the Navy's first Ship of the Line, the USS Independence, which was built for the War of 1812. Also included are rare artifacts, a photo gallery, models of nuclear submarines (as long as six feet

and a mounted 1950's diving suit. Media contact: Kenneth Zadwick, Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, (707) 557-0662, [kenzad01@yahoo.com](mailto:kenzad01@yahoo.com). Public contact: (707) 557-1538, [www.mareislandhpf.org](http://www.mareislandhpf.org).

#### **Oakland Museum of California Celebrates History and Innovation of Disneyland**

The Oakland Museum of California is exhibiting "Behind the Magic—50 Years of Disneyland" through August 20. This exhibit provides a rare look at American icon Walter Elias Disney and his vision for a new genre of family entertainment. The three-part exhibition features Disney's early life as a cartoonist and filmmaker; renderings and plans for his amusement park; and a section on the Imagineers, the gifted team responsible for creating and maintaining Disneyland's culture and magic. Visitors will see 250 pieces of original Imagineering artwork, including Herb Ryman's 1954 vellum rendering (roughly six feet by four feet) of Disneyland, a key element in Roy Disney's successful pitch to bankers for initial funding for the park. Or sit in the original vehicles from "Peter Pan's Ride®" and "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride®" and meet Disney's first human Audio-Animatronics® figure, Abe Lincoln. Media contact: Elizabeth Whipple, Oakland Museum of California, (510) 637-0177, [ewhipple@museumca.org](mailto:ewhipple@museumca.org). Public contact: (510) 238-2200, [www.museumca.org](http://www.museumca.org).

#### **Orchard Garden Hotel Opens This Summer**

July 12 is opening day for San Francisco's Orchard Garden Hotel, the Golden State's first hotel built to the nationally accepted standards for green buildings developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The new construction, representing a new generation in hotels, followed the "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design" (LEED) Green Building Rating System in order to earn the coveted LEED certification. The hotel's green practices also include chemical-free cleaning products, a 100% tobacco-free environment, recycled paper and soy-based inks, and the San Francisco debut of a guestroom key card energy control system. Located at 466 Bush

Street, the hotel will consist of a 10-story building with a total of 55,751 square feet featuring 86 guest rooms, including four suites, as well as a fitness center, boardroom, rooftop garden and a 56-seat restaurant. LEED is a voluntary program that promotes integrated, whole-building design practices and provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. It provides state-of-the-art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor air quality. Media contact: Trisha Clayton, (415) 346-4565, [t.clayton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:t.clayton@sbcglobal.net). Public contact: The Orchard Garden Hotel, (888) 717-2881, [www.theorchardgardenhotel.com](http://www.theorchardgardenhotel.com).

#### **Paramount's Great America**

Big time Hollywood-style reality thrills await adventure seekers with Paramount Great America's new SURVIVOR The Ride. Based on the hit CBS series, the participants are surrounded by the sounds of tribal music and jungle drums and journey past fiery 40-foot tall torches, exotic tribal relics and tropical landscaping. Those brave enough can participate in an endurance immunity challenge. Guests are divided into two tribes and challenged to demonstrate their enthusiasm through tribal chants and ritual dance movements that trigger a collection of native masks to spray water on the losing tribe. The adventure continues as riders board a giant circular vessel to experience a thrilling rocking and spinning motion as the platform swirls along a wave-like track—all while traversing through rugged terrain and ascending hills as high as five stories tall! With the addition of SURVIVOR The Ride, Paramount's Great America offers the most roller coasters in Northern California, as well as the most rides and water rides. Media contact: Holly Perez, Paramount's Great America, (408) 986-5986, [holly.perez@paramountparks.com](mailto:holly.perez@paramountparks.com). Public contact: (408) 988-1776, [www.pgathrills.com](http://www.pgathrills.com).

#### **San Francisco Conservatory of Music to Open New Facility**

The San Francisco Conservatory of Music, which has been educating and inspiring young musicians for more than 87 years, is set to open its new facility on September 1. On September 29, 2003, the internationally acclaimed music school broke ground on its new \$80 million teaching, performance, rehearsal and practice facility in San Francisco's Civic Center, taking its place in the nexus of the city's performing arts neighborhood and marking the newest addition in the area's cultural rejuvenation. The new facility provides dramatic improvements in classroom, studio and practice spaces, and will feature three state-of-the-art performance venues; a 120-seat Recital Salon, a 160-seat Recital Hall, and a 450-seat Concert Hall. The move allows visitors to San Francisco greater access to the Conservatory's over 350 public performances annually, many of them free of charge. Media contact: Lisa Petrie, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, (415) 759-3465, [lep@sfc.edu](mailto:lep@sfc.edu). Public contact: (415) 759-3465, [www.sfc.edu](http://www.sfc.edu).

#### **Six Flags Marine World Welcomes Tava's Jungleland and Shouka's Splashtime Show**

Visitors to Six Flags Marine World will be excited to find the addition of Tava's Jungleland, an elaborately jungle-themed play area featuring seven family rides, a giant treehouse adventure and live animal interaction. The addition of Tava's Jungleland makes the 140-acre park home to the most kids' rides and the most family rides in Northern California. Ride additions include "Tava's Elephant Parade" where kids can fly round and round on soaring pachyderms, and "Safari Jeep Tours" where kids can hop aboard and convoy through the backside of Tava's Jungleland. Six Flags Marine World is also proud to present "Shouka's Splashtime Show," where guests can witness the rare display of grace, beauty and aerial acrobatics by Shouka the killer whale and Merlin the Atlantic bottlenose dolphin. Watching the 5,000-pound killer whale and 500-pound dolphin work side

by side is an educational experience for the entire family. Media contact: Paul Garcia, Six Flags Marine World, (707) 556-5227, [pagarcia@sftp.com](mailto:pagarcia@sftp.com). Public contact: (707) 643-6722, [www.sixflags.com/marineworld](http://www.sixflags.com/marineworld).



#### **Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks**

The recently rededicated Kings Canyon Visitor Center (formerly known as the

Grant Grove Visitor Center) has gone through a major redesign and renovation over the past four years to now house the Children's Discovery Room and new exhibits, in both English and Spanish that tell the story of what makes Kings Canyon National Park a treasure. The exhibits, including a new 15-minute film and describe the three resources that make Kings Canyon National Park unique and nationally significant: the Kings Canyon itself, the giant sequoias, and the High Sierra. Media contact: Alexandra Picavet, National Park Service, (559) 565-3131, [Alexandra\\_picavet@nps.gov](mailto:Alexandra_picavet@nps.gov). Public contact: (559) 565-3341, [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki).

#### **Squaw Valley Herb Gardens**

The Squaw Valley Herb Gardens in Fresno County make a perfect single stop or enhancement to a Sequoia, Kings Canyon and Yosemite national parks or Central Valley visit. Open only by appointment, individuals can book a tour in advance to visit this botanical garden and lavender farm. This year they've added three new itineraries for group travelers to the already existing program of "Recipes & Remedies" that includes California History, World Spice Trade and Old Time Medicines. The new group itineraries include "Sacred Art & Wildflowers Tour", "Farm to Fork Culinary Tour" and the fragrant finale "Everything Lavender Tour." Media and public contact: Rosemary Nightingale, Squaw Valley Herb Gardens, (559) 332-2909 or (800) 579-8043, [rosemary@squawvalleyherbgardens.com](mailto:rosemary@squawvalleyherbgardens.com); [www.squawvalleyherbgardens.com](http://www.squawvalleyherbgardens.com).

**Vacaville CVB Launches New Web Site**

The Vacaville Conference and Visitors Bureau (VCVB) has launched its new Web site, [www.vacavillenow.com](http://www.vacavillenow.com) to highlight the numerous attractions in the city of Vacaville. Visitors to the site will find information on things to do, a calendar of events and site-specific maps of Historic Downtown, Vacaville and the regional area. Media and public contact: Vacaville Conference and Visitors Bureau, (707) 450-0500, [www.vacavillenow.com](http://www.vacavillenow.com).

**VisitLodi.com**

The Lodi Conference & Visitors Bureau is proud to announce its new Web site—[www.visitloidi.com](http://www.visitloidi.com). The site is designed to be more user friendly and visually appealing and new features include mouse-over directories, an arts and culture page, events calendar, listing of event/meeting facilities and page dedicated to just tour operators. Media contact: Nancy Beckman, Lodi Conference & Visitors Bureau, (209) 365-1195, [nbeckman@visitloidi.com](mailto:nbeckman@visitloidi.com). Public contact: (209) 365-1195, [info@visitloidi.com](mailto:info@visitloidi.com), [www.visitloidi.com](http://www.visitloidi.com).

**Maidu Interpretive Center and Historic Site**

Two exhibits running through this summer are on display at Maidu Interpretive Center and Historic Site—"When Rocks Collide" and "Ancient Echoes" in

Roseville. "When Rocks Collide" features family-friendly hands-on activities, explores the relationship of local geology and native culture and includes informative panels about geologic processes as well as cultural uses of stone for tools, ceremony, trade and more. "Ancient Echoes" is a photography exhibit featuring radiant petroglyph (rock art) photographs by Daniel Bianchetta. Media contact: Kristie Stevens Bundgard, Maidu Interpretive Center & Historic Site, (916) 774-5934. Public contact: (916) 774-5934, [www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum](http://www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum).

**Sacramento Zoo Exhibits Amphibians**

The Sacramento Zoo has announced the opening of two new amphibian exhibits sponsored by the Sacramento Stormwater Partnership. One exhibit is home to pacific tree frogs and a roughskin newt, while the other houses green tree frogs, squirrel tree frogs and canyon tree frogs. The frogs' homes look and feel like their natural tropical rain forest environments. The Sacramento Stormwater Partnership has teamed with the Sacramento Zoo to educate visitors about the hazards of pesticide residue from lawns and gardens that drains directly into local wetland habitats. Recent studies have shown that the use of herbicides affect amphibians most directly, interfering with their ability to grow and breed. Media contact: Dagmar Smith, The Sacramento Zoo, (916) 264-7446, [dsmith@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:dsmith@cityofsacramento.org). Public contact: (916) 264-5888, [www.sac zoo.com](http://www.sac zoo.com).

**Sierra Railroad Features****Rail & Raft Trip**

The Sierra Railroad Company and Sunshine Rafting Adventures have teamed up to offer guests to the gold country a different way to absorb the beautiful scenery—by train and raft. The trip begins in Oakdale aboard the historic Sierra Railroad Daylight Train as passengers enjoy a leisurely two-hour ride and box lunch while venturing through the Stanislaus River Valley. The train ride is followed by an easy guide-assisted float trip down the Stanislaus River from Knights Ferry to Orange Blossom Park. The route offers views of a variety of wildlife and bird species as well as popular scenic spots "Two Bluffs" volcanic area and "Lover's Leap." The trips start May 27 and run on weekends through September 3. Media contact: Fred Sater, Fred Sater Communications, (916) 972-1650, [fredsaterpr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fredsaterpr@sbcglobal.net). Public contact: Sierra Railroad, (800) 866-1690, [www.sierrarailroad.com](http://www.sierrarailroad.com).

**State Railroad Museum Installs "Lost Spike"**

On September 2, the second day of the ever-popular Gold Rush Days event in Old Sacramento, the California State Railroad Museum will officially and ceremoniously install the coveted golden "lost spike" (of Transcontinental Railroad fame) in a special, custom-designed permanent exhibit highlighting this American icon and its lesser-known, precious metal siblings. During that weekend's celebrations, visitors will also be treated to rare guided tours of underground Old Sacramento. The city was raised in the 1860s due to severe flooding and this is a spectacular chance to see what remains from this fascinating period in history. Media contact: Paul Hammond, California State Parks, (916) 445-1705. Public contact: California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park, (916) 445-6645, [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org).

**2006 SushiMasters Competition**

California is home to the first sushi bars in the United States and the number one rice-growing region for the premium medium grain rice served in all sushi made in the United States today. The evolution of sushi in Japan and the United States has preserved the traditional art of sushi-making while continuing to inspire a new generation of chefs. The SushiMasters competition, held September 18 in Sacramento, honors California's essential sushi ingredient and the state's top sushi chefs for their mastery of various sushi types and regional styles. Because of its overwhelming success, the 2006 SushiMasters event will grow to accommodate a larger audience of foodservice professionals, legislators, community leaders, and trade/consumer media. And new this year, tickets are also available for purchase to food enthusiasts and sushi fans! Media contact: Beth Horan, California Rice Commission, (916) 929-2264, [bhoran@calrice.org](mailto:bhoran@calrice.org). Public contact: Mary Lyons, (916) 929-2264, [www.sushimasters.com](http://www.sushimasters.com).





### **Cedar House Sport Hotel**

A new edgy adventure boutique hotel in Truckee is set to open for business mid-May. This 42-room hotel is geared toward relaxed comfort, fusing the

best of contemporary design with unique green architecture and chic European touches. The Cedar House Sport Hotel puts a fresh spin on the typical rustic mountain experience, where guests can connect back to nature with guided backcountry tours and a variety of High Sierra activities. Media contact: Switchback Public Relations + Marketing, Jenny Franklin, (530) 550-2252, [jfranklin@switchbackpr.com](mailto:jfranklin@switchbackpr.com). Public contact: Patty Baird, Cedar House Sport Hotel, (530) 582-5655, [stay@cedarhousesporthotel.com](mailto:stay@cedarhousesporthotel.com), [www.cedarhousesporthotel.com](http://www.cedarhousesporthotel.com).

### **Evergreen Lodge**

Evergreen Lodge, located just outside Yosemite National Park, has announced that it now offers "custom camping" in addition to its traditional cabins. "Custom camping," a new convenience camping concept, allows guests to sleep among the trees and under the stars without the hassle of pitching a tent or setting up camp. Guests arrive to a fully furnished tent site, including a spacious tent, comfortable airbeds, sleeping bags with liners, pillows, towels, toiletries, camping chairs and a lantern. The tent top is mesh, allowing a dreamy view of the stars. Visitors enjoy exclusive use of Evergreen's new bathhouse and have access to all property facilities including the restaurant, tavern, recreation building, and all activities and guided recreation programs. Media contact: Kate Rapson, Graham & Associates, (415) 986-7212, [krapson@graham-associates.com](mailto:krapson@graham-associates.com). Public contact: Evergreen Lodge, (209) 379-2606, [info@evergreenlodge.com](mailto:info@evergreenlodge.com), [www.evergreenlodge.com](http://www.evergreenlodge.com).

### **Resort at Squaw Creek Renovations**

Olympic Valley's Resort at Squaw Creek is now offering guests the fruits of a \$53 million renovation. Significant upgrades were made to its 405 guest rooms and suites are now complete with kitchens, fireplaces, and LCD flat screen TVs. Additional

improvements were made to the lobby, spa, four restaurants and conference facilities. Media contact: Kristen Hunter, Hunter Public Relations, (831) 375-1747, [hpr@aol.com](mailto:hpr@aol.com) Public contact: Resort at Squaw Creek, (530) 583-6300 or (800) 327-3353, [www.squawcreek.com](http://www.squawcreek.com).

### **Spa Sureau Opens in Oakhurst**

Spa Sureau, located on the Estate by the Elderberries in Oakhurst just South of Yosemite, is now open. Eager to serve guests, the spa offers a Spa Consultation Program to explain treatments and make suggestions. The spa offers a variety of services including massages, facials, manicures and pedicures, and special services for men and couples. Media contact: Dan Carter, Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau, (559) 683-4636, [dan@yosemitethisyear.com](mailto:dan@yosemitethisyear.com). Public contact: Estate by the Elderberries, (559) 683-6860, [chateau@chateausureau.com](mailto:chateau@chateausureau.com), [www.chateausureau.com](http://www.chateausureau.com).

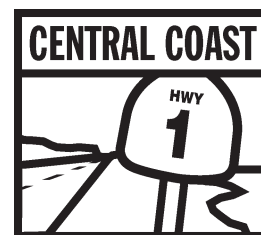
### **Tahoe Rim Trail Celebrates 25th**

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA) will kick off its 25th anniversary celebration on June 3, National Trails Day, partnering with California State Parks for trail work, guided hikes and training at Emerald Bay on the West Shore. The six-month celebration will take place June to November and will include such events as special guided hikes that will provided participants with the opportunity to complete the trail's 165 miles, in eight segments, to become part of the organization's prestigious 165-Mile Club. Media contact: Pettit Gilwee, Pettit Gilwee Public Relations, (530) 583-2138, [pettit@gilweepr.com](mailto:pettit@gilweepr.com). Public contact: Tahoe Rim Trail Association, (775) 298-0012, [www.tahoerimtrail.org](http://www.tahoerimtrail.org).

### **Volcom Brothers Skatepark**

Completion of the Volcom Brothers Skatepark in Mammoth Lakes is slated to open in early summer 2006. The park which occupies over an acre was built to honor the memory of professional snowboarder Jeff Anderson, a Mammoth local, who died in a tragic accident in Japan in February 2003 at the age of 23. The Jeff Anderson Memorial Foundation was formed by family and friends to raise funding necessary to build a world-class public

skatepark. Media contact: Jim Kellett, Mammoth Lakes Visitors Bureau, (760) 934-2712 x211, [jkellert@visitmammoth.com](mailto:jkellert@visitmammoth.com). Public contact: (760) 934-2712, [info@mammothlakes.com](mailto:info@mammothlakes.com), [www.mammothlakes.com](http://www.mammothlakes.com).



### **Avila La Fonda Hotel**

Luxurious accommodations are now available at Avila La Fonda Hotel in Avila

Beach. The property features Mexican village-style architecture, complete with beautiful fountains, a two-story mural and stained glass ceilings. Guests can choose from a variety of room options including Casitas (two-room/two-bath suites), Great Rooms (large studios), and Spa Rooms. Guests can also enjoy amenities such as a Jacuzzi tub, fireplace, 42-inch Plasma TV, Bose CD player, hospitality bar, gourmet kitchen, in-room refrigerator complimentary snacks and beverages and 24-hour concierge service. Media contact: Troi Hoffman, (805) 773-6996, [troihoffman@aol.com](mailto:troihoffman@aol.com). Public contact: Avila La Fonda Hotel, (805) 595-1700, [www.avilalafonda.com](http://www.avilalafonda.com).

### **Bonfante Gardens Family Theme Park**

Gilroy's Bonfante Gardens Family Theme Park has opened for this season with three redesigned gardens and three new educational exhibits. The redesigned gardens include South County Backroads Garden where guests drive their own 1920s roadster or 1950s Chevy Corvette. The garden now includes over 1,000 new shrubs, 19 new annual flower beds and five new animal-themed topiaries designed to delight and entertain guests along their drive. Claudia's Garden, which was primarily green conifers, is now spotted with colorful annual flower beds and has an added 75 specialty conifers. Bonfante Garden's Lily Pond has been redesigned as the all-new Holly Garden and is home to more than 20 varieties of holly and five new holly topiaries. Families are sure to enjoy the new educational exhibits including the redwood round exhibit - a six-foot-tall, three-foot-wide slice of redwood to teach guests how to determine the age of a tree. A new honeybee

exhibit teaches guests about bees and pollination, and the butterfly exhibit inside the park's Monarch Garden offers an interactive way for guests to understand the life of a butterfly. Media contact: Holly Perez, Bonfante Gardens Family Theme Park, (408) 986-5986, [holly.perez@paramountparks.com](mailto:holly.perez@paramountparks.com). Public contact: Bonfante Gardens, (408) 840-7100, [www.bonfategardens.org](http://www.bonfategardens.org).

#### **Captain's Inn Completes Additions**

The Captain's Inn at Moss Landing has completed a new overlook deck on the Old Salinas River Salt Marsh, where guests can view birds, harbor seals and sea otters, sunsets or plan small wedding ceremonies. The deck, like the B&B, was constructed with a maritime theme, crafted from a fisherman's dory, complete with a bow and stern. Media and public contact: Melanie Gideon, Captain's Inn, (831) 633-5550, [res@captainsinn.com](mailto:res@captainsinn.com).

#### **Channel Islands Harbor Gets New Dive Boat**

Visitors to the Channel Islands National Park will soon be able to dive and explore the kelp forests with the arrival of Sunfish, a newly restored dive boat. The 53-foot vessel will be situated at Marine Emporium Landing and can accommodate 49 dive passengers. Offerings include both lobster and sport fish dives as well as day trips and sightseeing coastal charter tours. Media and public contact: Sunfish Diving, (805) 644-1499.

#### **Crowne Plaza Ventura**

Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach renovations, scheduled for a mid-June completion, will include upgraded bedding and sleep accessories, the creation of a lobby lounge with windows opening to the beach and ocean view, a 24-hour business center, expanded fitness center and complete remodeling of the meeting and banquet rooms. Ventura's only beachfront hotel, Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach is within walking distance to Historic Downtown Ventura and is adjacent to one of California's finest surf spots, C Street. Media contact: Gizem Nance, Ann Flower Communications, (310) 305-7169, [gizemnance@aol.com](mailto:gizemnance@aol.com). Public contact: Crowne Plaza Ventura, (805) 648-2100, [www.cpventura.com](http://www.cpventura.com)

#### **Dolphin Bay Hotel Now Open in Shell Beach**

A new luxury oceanfront resort, Dolphin Bay Hotel and Residences, is now open in Shell Beach, about 10 minutes south of San Luis Obispo. Dolphin Bay features 70 one-bedroom, two-bedroom and penthouse guest residences with some privately owned. Guests can dine on "coastal wine country" cuisine at the resort's Lido Restaurant, and do a little pampering at the spa at Dolphin Bay, "La Bonne Vie." A fitness center and enormous, infinity-edged pool and whirlpool spa overlook the Pacific. Media contact: The Fontayne Group, (310) 821-4678, [news@fontayne.com](mailto:news@fontayne.com). Public contact: Dolphin Bay Hotel and Residences, (800) 516-0112 or (805) 773-4300, [www.dolphinbayhotelandresidences.com](http://www.dolphinbayhotelandresidences.com).

#### **Half Moon Bay Coastside Eco-Tourism**

The Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau have announced a new eco-tourism campaign, aimed at educating travelers about the natural, historical and cultural wonders of the 80 miles of coast. The Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau is working with the farmers, fisherman and business community to offer visitors new and exciting hands-on activities. Activities range from visiting marine reserves and small working farms to shopping on historic Main Street and fishing for wild salmon. A menu of adventures to help travelers plan their customized itinerary is supplied on the Web site, [www.halfmoonbaychamber.org/visiting\\_hmb/ecotourism.html](http://www.halfmoonbaychamber.org/visiting_hmb/ecotourism.html). Media and public contact: Charise Hale McHugh, Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, (650) 726-8380, [charise@halfmoonbaychamber.org](mailto:charise@halfmoonbaychamber.org), [www.halfmoonbaychamber.org](http://www.halfmoonbaychamber.org).

#### **Jim Hall Kart Racing School Moves to Oxnard**

Oxnard is now the home of the Jim Hall Kart Racing School that moved from Ventura into its new state-of-the-art facility, including amenities such as a covered dining area, classroom, spectator stands and enclosed observation deck. The new location also boasts a new track that is wider, longer and has a double 180, a turn found mostly in European tracks. Media contact: Janis Flippen, Janis Flippen Public

Relations, (805) 389-9495, [jflippenpr@adelphia.net](mailto:jflippenpr@adelphia.net). Public contact: Jim Hall Kart Racing School, (805) 654-1329, [jhrkart@west.net](mailto:jhrkart@west.net), [www.jimhallkartracingschool.com](http://www.jimhallkartracingschool.com).

#### **Mission San Miguel Arcangel Named as Historic Landmark**

The Mission San Miguel Arcangel has been named a National Historic Landmark, allowing the release of a \$300,000 federal grant to the California Missions Foundation, which will match it to produce \$600,000 in restoration funding. The mission was founded in 1797 by Father Fermin de Lasuen as the 16th mission. Indian artisans painted the walls and ceilings with ornate designs which still exist today. San Miguel Arcangel is one of the few missions that remains as originally constructed although it sustained significant damage during the San Simeon earthquake in December 2003 and is closed to visitors. The museum and gift shop are open to visitors. Media contact: Fred Sater, San Luis Obispo County Visitors & Conference Bureau, (916) 972-1650, [fredsaterpr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fredsaterpr@sbcglobal.net). Public contact: Mission San Miguel Arcangel, (805) 467-3256, [www.missionsanmiguel.org](http://www.missionsanmiguel.org).

#### **River Oaks Hot Springs & Spa Renovation**

Formerly known as the Paso Robles Hot Springs and Spa, River Oaks Hot Springs & Spa has officially opened under its new name and phase one of the renovations are complete. The revitalization project included new mission-style décor, various spa amenities, new street lights, refurbished entrance with fountain, and additional services on the spa menu. Media and public contact: Pam Lyon, River Oaks Hot Springs & Spa, (805) 238-4600, [pam@riveroaksgolfcourse.com](mailto:pam@riveroaksgolfcourse.com), [www.riveroakshotsprings.com](http://www.riveroakshotsprings.com).

#### **Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Features Frogs and Sharks**

"Toadally Frogs" and "SHARKS ...bite size" are on exhibition starting May 27 to Fall 2006 at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. "Toadally Frogs" gives an up-close look at 20 frogs from all over the world including tree frogs, dart frogs, bullfrogs, clawed frogs and fives species of



toads from places such as Australia, Asia, South and Central America, Madagascar and the Gulf Coast. At the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Ty Warner Sea Center, “SHARKS...bite size” will showcase various sharks found within the Santa Barbara Channel, including a shark touch tank with swell sharks, horn sharks, thornback rays and other species. Close encounters, under the supervision of Sea Center educators, will share the story of shark reproduction, the sharks’ plight and struggle for survival, and the impact humans have on sharks, the oceans and our planet. Media contact: Easter Moorman, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, (805) 682-4711 x117, [emoorman@sbnature2.org](mailto:emoorman@sbnature2.org). Public contact: (805) 682-4711, [info@sbnature2.org](mailto:info@sbnature2.org), [www.sbnature.org](http://www.sbnature.org).



**Aquarium of the Pacific**  
“Dazzling + Dangerous—Venomous Creatures” opens May 26 at the Aquarium

of the Pacific in Long Beach. Guests can discover the beautiful, but dangerous animals that lurk in and near the Pacific Ocean and can unravel the truth behind the myths as they learn why venom is the weapon of choice for these animals. From lionfish and waspfish to fanged snakes and fuzzy spiders, visitors can meet some of the surprising faces behind the fangs, stingers, and spines of the most dazzling and dangerous animals from the ocean and Southern California. Media contact: Marilyn Padilla, Aquarium of the Pacific, (562) 951-1684, [mpadilla@lbaop.org](mailto:mpadilla@lbaop.org). Public contact: (562) 590-3100, [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org).

#### **Architecture Tours L.A.**

A fascinating new tour experience is available to L.A. visitors. Guided by an architectural historian, tour participants can view the masterpieces of Frank Lloyd Wright, Frank Gehry, Greene & Greene, Paul Williams, Richard Neutra and others, as well as the historical styles of Victorian, Art Deco, Craftsman, Mid-Century Modern and Postmodern. Each tour conducted from a deluxe van, focuses on

a particular area of L.A. such as Hollywood, Silver Lake, Hancock Park/Miracle Mile, West Hollywood/Beverly Hills, Pasadena and Downtown. Media and public contact: Laura Massino, Architecture Tours L.A., (323) 464-7868, [info@architecturetoursla.com](mailto:info@architecturetoursla.com), [www.architecturetoursla.com](http://www.architecturetoursla.com).

#### **California Science Center Spotlights Superheroes**

“Marvel Super Heroes Science Exhibition: LIVE THE COMICS. LIVE THE SCIENCE” lets visitors to California Science Center step into the Marvel comics world to test their own superhero skills, with a little help from science. Visitors can navigate through an alleyway to safety like a Daredevil and see what it’s like to have an extra helping hand (or three) like Doctor Octopus. Investigate the brain of the Incredible Hulk to experience the neurology behind blowing his top or step into an Iron Man exo-suit to lift a 4,500-pound SUV, and visit the Xavier Institute of Higher Learning to learn about biomaterial and biomedical engineering. Highlights of the 9,000-square-foot interactive exhibit include a Marvel Comics timeline, a Marvel art gallery and an opportunity to be photographed as a super hero on the cover of a Marvel comic book. The exhibit runs through September 4. Media contact: Shell Amega, California Science Center, (213) 744-7496, [samega@cscmail.org](mailto:samega@cscmail.org). Public contact: (323) SCIENCE (323-724-3623), [www.californiasciencecenter.org](http://www.californiasciencecenter.org).

#### **Chinese American Museum Welcomes New Exhibition**

The Chinese American Museum (CAM) is presenting its next major art exhibit, “Merging: the Art of Diana Shui-lu Wong.” Slated to run through October 15, this exhibit demonstrates four decades of Wong’s work, from early impressionistic portraits and landscapes to recent abstract compositions inspired by the Chinese philosophy of the I-Ching or The Book of Changes. While Wong’s classical training in both Chinese and Western painting form the basis for her techniques, her study of the I-Ching offered her a decisive break from traditional modes as well as new creative directions. Wong’s most recent work ventures boldly into abstraction while

grounded in nature and the elements. Media contact: Linh Duong, Chinese American Museum, (213) 485-8568, [PR@camla.org](mailto:PR@camla.org). Public contact: (213) 485-8567, [www.camla.org](http://www.camla.org).

#### **Holly Trolley—Hollywood’s Nightlife Bus**

Hollywood’s new Holly Trolley is a bus that stops at several of Hollywood’s hottest night spots. For just \$1, you can ride Holly Trolley all night, embarking and disembarking as often as you like near clubs such as The Highlands, Mood and Avalon. Hollywood has one of the most intense club scenes in the world; these are the clubs that fill gossip columns pages and TV entertainment shows. The hottest venues are scattered through all of the central Hollywood area and Hollywood Boulevard, from La Brea at the west end past Vine Street in the east. The trolley operates every Thursday through Saturday (except designated holidays) from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., arriving at each stop in 12-minute intervals. Media contact: David Ambroz, Elizabeth Peterson Group, Inc., (323) 464-6575, [davidambroz@pacbell.net](mailto:davidambroz@pacbell.net), [www.hollywoodtrolleys.com](http://www.hollywoodtrolleys.com). Public contact: The City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, (213) 808-2273, [www.ladottransit.com/other/trolley](http://www.ladottransit.com/other/trolley) or [www.hollywoodtrolleys.com](http://www.hollywoodtrolleys.com).

#### **LAX Provides Convenience with Valet and Wi-Fi**

In an effort to provide more convenience to travelers, LAX, the fifth busiest passenger airport in the world, recently added valet parking and Wi-Fi Internet service. Both are expected to be available this summer. A new agreement with T-Mobile will bring Wi-Fi access to all public areas in passenger terminals. To access the network, users will pay \$9.99 for each 24-hour period. Existing T-Mobile customers will be charged according to their wireless plans. Airport officials expect valet parking to be available in the summer as well. Media contact: Nancy Castles, Los Angeles World Airports, (310) 646-5260, [ncastles@lawa.org](mailto:ncastles@lawa.org). Public contact: (310) 646-5252, [www.lawa.org](http://www.lawa.org).

### **Long Beach Museum of Art Features Modernist Sculptor**

The Long Beach Museum of Art features Ruth Duckworth, Modernist Sculptor May 5 to July 2. This is the first United States retrospective on this internationally acclaimed ceramic artist. In conjunction with this program, the museum launches a new audio tour program which offers additional commentary on the exhibition from the museum's curatorial and education staff and provides a resource to further understand the history and complexity of Duckworth's extraordinary work. "Modernist Sculptor" showcases over 80 pieces and surveys her richly productive 50-year career. Duckworth has worked with a range of materials and techniques including porcelain, stoneware, stone carving and bronze casting. Media contact: Mikhael Mei Williams, Long Beach Museum of Art, (562) 439-2119 x256, [mikhaelw@lbma.org](mailto:mikhaelw@lbma.org). Public contact: (562) 439-2119, [www.lbma.org](http://www.lbma.org).

### **Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier Offers Internet Access**

Guests can now check E-mail while sitting 40 feet above the Pacific Ocean at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier at The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. Located inside the café are two SeePoint Kiosks with Windows XP, which allow guests to visit [www.pacpark.com](http://www.pacpark.com). Pacific Park's free Web site for information on events, rides and attractions, or guests can purchase general Internet access. Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier is L.A.'s only admission free amusement park. Media contact: Cameron Andrews, Pier Communications, (562) 432-5300, [cameron@piercomm.com](mailto:cameron@piercomm.com). Public contact: Pacific Park, (310) 260-8744, [www.pacpark.com](http://www.pacpark.com).

### **Residence Inn by Marriott—Beverly Hills Completes \$4.5 Million Renovation**

The Residence Inn by Marriott-Beverly Hills has enjoyed a \$4.5 million renovation of all studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites as well as a renovation of the lobby, breakfast area, exercise facility, hearthroom and guestroom corridors. All guest studios received Marriott's new bedding package, new carpet, wall covering, drapes and furniture, and new bathroom and kitchen cabinetry with black granite

countertops. The changes were made to create a more upscale feel for the unique Beverly Hills client. Media contact: Michael Cunningham, Residence Inn by Marriott-Beverly Hills, (310) 228-4105, [mcunningham@sunstonehotels.com](mailto:mcunningham@sunstonehotels.com). Public contact: (310) 228-4100 [www.beverlyhillsresidenceinn.com](http://www.beverlyhillsresidenceinn.com).

### **Six Flags Magic Mountain Unleashes Tatsu**

Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia is introducing Tatsu, the world's tallest, fastest and longest flying roller coaster. With the addition of Tatsu, Six Flags Magic Mountain now also has the world's most roller coasters at one park—17. Aboard Tatsu, riders will reach speeds in excess of 62 miles per hour, through a never-been-done-before completely integrated flight pattern—up, down, over and through—the park's distinct mountainous terrain. Riders are suspended beneath the track in a "horizontal to Earth" flying position and dart in and out of looming trees, blaze over a series of high-speed spirals, banked turns, zero gravity drops and soar over the tops of four inversions while dodging Roaring Rapids, Ninja, Orient Express and crossing an opposing Revolution train high above Valencia Falls. Media contact: Sue Carpenter or Connie Lujan, Six Flags Magic Mountain, (661) 255-4819. Public contact: (661) 255-4111, [www.sixflags.com](http://www.sixflags.com).

### **Totems to Turquoise**

Running now through August 20, "Totems to Turquoise: Native North American Jewelry Arts of the Northwest and Southwest" celebrates the beauty, power and symbolism of modern Native American jewelry arts. In addition to the jewelry from various tribes, the exhibition also displays a selection of contemporary totem sculptures, historic and contemporary masks, boxes, weavings, figures, pottery, and other artworks, many from the American Museum of Natural History's renowned collections and augmented from the Autry's permanent collections. This exhibit brings together more than 500 objects, all celebrating thousands of years of culture and experience. Media contact: Jay Aldrich, Autry National Center, (323) 667-2000 x329, [jaldrich@autrynationalcenter.org](mailto:jaldrich@autrynationalcenter.org). Public contact: Autry National Center, (323) 667-2000, [www.autrynationalcenter.org](http://www.autrynationalcenter.org).

### **Union Station FlyAway Eases Trips between LAX and Downtown**

Los Angeles World Airports, which operates the successful Van Nuys FlyAway scheduled motorcoach service between the mid-San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles International Airport, recently launched similar service between Downtown LA's Union Station and LAX. The Union Station FlyAway operates every half hour from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. and every hour from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. The 20-mile ride costs \$3 one way for adults, \$2 for children between two and 12 years, and free for children under two years. The Union Station FlyAway features comfortable motorcoaches with luggage storage and porter service. The coaches travel in carpool lanes. Visitors arriving at LAX and riding the FlyAway to Union Station can then take a DASH shuttle into Downtown LA, the Metro Red Line subway into Downtown, Hollywood or the east San Fernando Valley, or the Metro Gold Line light rail to Pasadena. Media contact: Nancy Castles, Los Angeles World Airports, (310) 646-5260, [ncastles@lawa.org](mailto:ncastles@lawa.org). Public contact: (310) 646-5252, [www.lawa.org](http://www.lawa.org).

### **Universal Studios Hollywood Announces Free Shuttle Service**

Free Shuttle Service from Anaheim to Universal Studios Hollywood gives Southern California visitors a unique opportunity to visit the world's largest movie studio and theme park while receiving complimentary celebrity-style treatment on one of Southern California Gray Lines' deluxe passenger buses. Universal Studios Hollywood and Southern California Gray Line are pleased to offer the new free round-trip luxury service beginning July 2006. Guests who purchase a full-price ticket to Universal Studios Hollywood will board a fleet of colorful, comfortable buses, departing several times a day from a convenient Anaheim location. Free Shuttle service will be provided to guests who purchase Universal Studios Hollywood tickets through Southern California Gray Line or through hotel concierge. Media contact: Lindsey Mesenbourg, Universal Studios Hollywood, (818) 622-5985, [lindsey.mesenbourg@nbcuni.com](mailto:lindsey.mesenbourg@nbcuni.com). Public contact: [www.universalstudioshollywood.com](http://www.universalstudioshollywood.com) or [www.coachusa.us](http://www.coachusa.us).



**Discovery  
Science  
Center's  
Expansion  
Features  
Dinosaurs**

Dino Quest,  
the world's first  
interactive

Dinosaur game

opens this Summer 2006. This \$5 million science adventure will extend over 10,000 square feet and contain 40 exhibits including an Argentinosaurus, T-rex, Velociraptor, Triceratops and Maiasaur along with fossil digs and other related exhibits. Visitors will learn how dinosaurs lived as well as science concepts such as body systems, predatory and prey, habitats, fossils and tracks and fun clues about our past. Media contact: Leslie Perovich, Discovery Science Center, (714) 913-5018, [lperovich@discoverycube.org](mailto:lperovich@discoverycube.org). Public contact: (714) 542-2823, [www.discoverycube.org](http://www.discoverycube.org).

**Disney's California Adventure Park**

The Disneyland Resort is celebrating its 50th anniversary with two new attractions at Disney's California Adventure Park. "Monsters, Inc. Mike and Sulley to the Rescue!," inspired by Disney's presentation of Pixar's "Monsters, Inc.," is an innovative ride-through attraction that brings the characters of "Monsters, Inc.," and the city of Monstropolis to life. Like the movie, the ride takes visitors on an exciting mission of safely returning "Boo," a little girl who accidentally enters Monstropolis, back to her bedroom. Also new is "Turtle Talk with Crush," an attraction that gives guests the opportunity to engage in personalized, live conversations with the animated 152-year-old surf-talking turtle from "Finding Nemo." "Turtle Talk with Crush" uses real-time animation for live conversations, in which he asks guests about life in the human world and answers questions about his underwater world. A wild, interactive parade awaits as Disney presents the Pixar Film Pals in Block Party Bash, where guests can sing, jump and dance to their favorite cool surf tunes. Media contact: Betsy Sanchez, Disneyland Resort, (714) 284-6386, [betsy.e.sanchez@disney.com](mailto:betsy.e.sanchez@disney.com). Public contact: (714) 781-4565, [www.disneyland.com](http://www.disneyland.com).

**Disney's Pirates of the  
Caribbean Attraction**

Pirates of the Caribbean, the classic Disney theme park adventure brought to the big screen in "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," is adding new characters, features and special effects from the blockbuster entertainment franchise. The Disneyland Resort closed the attraction in March to complete the updates in time for the opening of the new film, "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" on July 7. The attraction will re-open at Disneyland on June 26. The attraction will feature the addition of two of Hollywood's most infamous buccaneers, Captain Jack Sparrow and his nemesis Barbossa. Joining the wildest crew that ever sacked the Spanish Main, Captain Jack and Barbossa add an exciting new twist to the attraction's original storyline as they race to be the first to claim a cache of plundered treasure. Media contact: Betsy Sanchez, The Disneyland Resort, (714) 284-6386, [betsy.e.sanchez@disney.com](mailto:betsy.e.sanchez@disney.com). Public contact: (714) 781-4565, [www.disneyland.com](http://www.disneyland.com).

**Fairmont Newport Beach**

The Fairmont Newport Beach is undergoing a \$30 million remodeling effort commencing with the guest rooms, scheduled to be completed May 15 and culminating with the public space, due to be completed by June 1. The hotel will offer 444 luxurious accommodations including 54 exquisite suites with Bose stereo and oversized soaking tubs. All guest rooms will offer beautiful marble entries, pillow top mattress with Egyptian Cotton linens, 32" high-definition flat panel TV, DVD and CD player with European amenities from Miller Harris. Our newly designed sky pool deck will include remodeled fitness facilities featuring Techno Gym equipment with the addition of a new 8,000 square foot boutique spa opening in January 2007. The exclusive GOLD FLOOR & LOUNGE is set to debut in June—a luxurious hotel-within-a-hotel concept. Media contact: Carol Vail, Fairmont Newport Beach, (949) 476-2001, [carol.vail@fairmont.com](mailto:carol.vail@fairmont.com). Public contact: (800) 441-1414 or (949) 476-2001, [www.fairmont.com/newportbeach](http://www.fairmont.com/newportbeach).

**Montage Resort & Spa  
Partners with Zoo**

The Montage Resort & Spa has partnered with the Santa Ana Zoo to offer exclusive, behind-the-scenes tours of Orange County's "50 monkeys" zoo. The package includes a trip through the zoo's Amazon Jungle with a private tour guide, a tour of the Crean Family Farm where children can feed and pet the farm's cows, geese, turkeys, pigs, pony and other popular animals, and will allow time to explore the zoo's other exhibits and features, including a ride on the "Zoofari Express" steam train. Packages are available to overnight guests at Montage Resort & Spa, which strives to offer access for their guests to unusual and exclusive activities. Media contact: Babs Harrison, Sheila Donnelly & Associates, (212) 851-8425, [babs@sheiladonnelly.com](mailto:babs@sheiladonnelly.com). Public contact: Montage Resort & Spa, (949) 715-6000 or (888) 715-6700, [www.montagelagunabeach.com](http://www.montagelagunabeach.com).

**Orange County Museum of Art**

The Orange County Museum of Art has an exciting lineup for summertime art enthusiasts. On view through August 20 is "California Modern," the first in a new series of exhibitions ("Collection Histories/Collective Memories") drawn from the museum's outstanding collection of 20th and 21st century art, largely by important California artists. "California Modern" focuses on the story of California art by looking at the intersection of significant artistic tendencies and groundbreaking exhibitions at the museum over the past 40 years. From June 4 to September 3 the museum presents an exhibition of work by prominent California artist Catherine Opie that ranges from her earliest photographs from the mid-1980s to a new series completed in 2005. This exhibition will focus on the poignant polarities of communities, values, and identities as seen in the contradictory landscape that is southern California. Media contact: Kirsten Schmidt, Orange County Museum of Art, (949) 759-1122 x202, [kschmidt@ocma.net](mailto:kschmidt@ocma.net). Public contact: (949) 759-1122, [www.ocma.net](http://www.ocma.net).





### **Mojave National Preserve Opens Information Center**

The Mojave National Preserve recently opened a new National Park

Service Information Center, Kelso Depot Information Center. The building was an old train station, lunch room and employee dormitory that has been renovated for use as the information center. The building now houses museum exhibits, historically furnished rooms, a theater and bookstore. The landscaping has been restored and a picnic area and parking have been added. Media contact: Linda Slater, Mojave National Preserve, (760) 252-6122. Public contact: (760) 252-6101, [www.nps.gov/moja](http://www.nps.gov/moja).

### **Palm Springs Art Museum**

The Palm Springs Art Museum has numerous new exhibitions to entice summer travelers. "Beyond Borders: Mexican Art Inspires 20th Century Art, Selections from the Museum's Collection" runs April 12 through November 12 and explores the influence and inspiration of Mexican art on developments in 20th century art. Organized into several themes, this exhibition takes you on a visual journey beyond national borders. It includes modern, abstract, and contemporary paintings, sculptures and works on paper by Mexican, South American, and North American artists as well as European artists working in Mexico. "Breaking Out! Sculptural Explorations in Metal & Wood" runs June 3 through October 8 and celebrates the artistic creativity of the individual artist who explores innovative interpretations of form. It brings together works from the museum's collection by artists who have achieved national or international acclaim such as Isamu Noguchi, Anthony Caro, Louise Nevelson, Richard Hunt, Melvin Schuler and many others. Their sculptures in metal and wood represent a wide range of artistic and technical approaches consisting of welded iron, lacquered steel, cast bronze, carved or assembled wood, painted wood reliefs and nail constructions. "Celebrity Photographs from the Permanent Collection" runs through October 1 and includes a selection

of photographs by George Hurrell, Sid Avery, and Michael Childers representing seven decades of celebrity photography. Beginning with the golden age of Hollywood of the 1930s and into the 21st century, these photographers have shaped our view of legends from popular culture and the art world. Movie stars Marlon Brando, Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson, and others are shown with artists such as the legendary pop artist Andy Warhol. Media contact: Kimberly Nichols, Palm Springs Art Museum, (760) 325-7186 x114, [knichols@psmuseum.org](mailto:knichols@psmuseum.org). Public contact: (760) 325-7186, [www.psmuseum.org](http://www.psmuseum.org).



### **New Reservation System for Big Bear Visitors**

Big Bear Lake Resort Association

(BBLRA) has launched a more convenient way for guests to book lodging reservations and activities with InnTopiaCRS. The new system makes it quicker and easier for both agents and guests to dynamically build vacation and weekend getaway packages. Guests who inquire about Big Bear reservations can now receive E-mail quotes, and in turn, the guests are able to complete their reservations via E-mail. Other benefits include automatic E-mail confirmations, photos are provided for each unit listed online and a date picker is now on the Web site's front page, which enables guests to search by property type or date. Visitors can book reservations online at [www.bigbear.com](http://www.bigbear.com) or by calling 800-4-BIG-BEAR (800-424-4232). Media contact: Dan McKernan, Big Bear Lake Resort Association, (909) 866-6190 x235, [dmckernan@bigbear.com](mailto:dmckernan@bigbear.com). Public contact: 800-4-BIG-BEAR, [www.bigbear.com](http://www.bigbear.com).

### **Old Town Temecula—Now Open Late!**

The brand new Old Town Temecula Business Association is delighted to announce that many new businesses in Old Town Temecula are staying open late on Friday and Saturday evenings to enhance visitors' shopping and dining experience. The unique and charming Old Town District is no longer a "ghost town" after 5 p.m. Some specialty shops and restaurants

that will be open for business until 9 p.m. or later are The Old Town Gallery, Panache Extraordinary Gifts & Coffee, Inside and Out Flag Store, Jack's Nuts, Country Goose, Art Diaspora, Temecula House of Wines, Temecula Olive Oil Company, Fleur De Chêne, Old Town Coffee House, Baily's Restaurant, Sweet Lumpy's, plus many more. Live Entertainment by local artists has also been added to the evening's lineup at the Front Street Bar & Grill and Old Town Coffee House. Media and public contact: Lee Stout, Old Town Temecula Business Association, (951) 699-3181, [lstout@oldtowntemecula.biz](mailto:lstout@oldtowntemecula.biz).

### **Temecula Valley Wine Country—New Wineries Join Scene**

New, quality wineries are joining the Temecula Valley Wine Country scene. Frangipani Estate Winery offers a unique tasting experience and a large variety of wines. From their award winning Sauvignon Blanc, Grenache Rose, Riesling and Cabernet Franc, to their estate grown Sangiovese and Grenache, there is a wine for everyone. The winery has spectacular views and overlooks rolling vineyards, equestrian ranches and estate vineyards. Temecula Hills Winery is a new small boutique winery with 11 acres of terraced vineyards consisting of Zinfandel, Syrah, Viognier, Mourvedre and Cabernet Sauvignon varietals. Some of their award-winning wines include Gold Awards for their 2003 Port and 2003 Tenacious; Silver Awards for their 2004 No Oak Chardonnay and 2002 Zinfandel Reserve; Bronze Awards for their 2004 Viognier, 2004 White Merlot, 2003 Mourvedre and 2003 Tempranillo. A new and improved winery is Leonesse Cellars, which was founded in 2003 and has now added a VIP Tasting Room, Conference Room and Outdoor Patio. The owners have nearly fifty years of agriculture and grape-growing experience in the Temecula Valley and they invite guests to come and enjoy their award-winning wines, exquisite cuisine and wonderful times with family and friends. Media and public contacts: Don Frangipani, Frangipani Estate Winery, (951) 302-7888, [www.frangipaniwinery.com](http://www.frangipaniwinery.com). Valerie Andrews, Temecula Hills Winery, (951) 767-3450, [www.temeculahillswinery.com](http://www.temeculahillswinery.com). Robb Renzoni, Leonesse Cellars, (951) 302-7601, [www.leonessecellars.com](http://www.leonessecellars.com).



### **Andy Warhol's Dream America**

The San Diego Museum of Art will feature pioneering pop artist Andy Warhol in "Andy Warhol's Dream America," June 17 to September 10.

The exhibit features nearly 120 memorable screen prints including the 1967 Marilyn Monroe print suite and the 1986 Cowboys and Indians portfolio. This is a rare opportunity to see a large group of Warhol's complete print portfolios. Media contact: Chris Zook, San Diego Museum of Art, (619) 696-1946, [czook@sdmart.org](mailto:czook@sdmart.org). Public contact: (619) 232-7931, [www.sdmart.org](http://www.sdmart.org).

### **The Aviara Golf Academy**

The Aviara Golf Academy at Four Seasons Resort Aviara debuted an advanced swing analysis and club fitting technology system during the opening of the TaylorMade Performance Lab. Using the same technology for creating animated characters in movies, such as Lord of the Rings, the matt system (motion analysis technology by TaylorMade) features nine cameras to track the motion and speed of a guest's swing. The system then custom designs clubs that will improve the golfer's performance. Guests who visit the lab pay \$350 for a two-hour session that includes analysis and instruction by a PGA golf professional; a personalized custom fitting for the driver; fairway woods, iron, rescue irons, and putter; and a CD containing the three-dimensional images of their swing and statistical analysis. For an extra fee, guests can even have the custom set of golf clubs manufactured at the nearby TaylorMade Headquarters and delivered right to their room in 24 hours. Guests who purchase custom-fitted clubs from TaylorMade also receive a personalized bag and TaylorMade Performance Lab head covers. Media contact: Tony Pistillo, Four Seasons Resort Aviara, (760) 603-6848, [tony.pistillo@fourseasons.com](mailto:tony.pistillo@fourseasons.com). Public Contact: (760) 603-6800, [www.fourseasons.com/aviara](http://www.fourseasons.com/aviara).

### **Four Seasons Offers Surf Concierge**

Located poolside in a surf shack, the surf concierge at the Four Seasons Resort Aviara in Carlsbad offers the latest surf conditions, water temperature and all the knowledge in order for guests to hit the beaches of San Diego. The surf concierge is also responsible for organizing the daily surf excursions, as well as teaching proper surf lingo and etiquette. A two-hour surf lesson costs \$95 per person and includes a wetsuit, surfboard and transportation to and from Moonlight Beach in Encinitas. The surf shuttle departs twice daily from the main entrance of the hotel. Reservations are required one day in advance. Media contact: Tony Pistillo, Four Seasons Resort Aviara, (760) 603-6848, [tony.pistillo@fourseasons.com](mailto:tony.pistillo@fourseasons.com). Public Contact: (760) 603-6800, [www.fourseasons.com/aviara](http://www.fourseasons.com/aviara).

### **LEGOLAND Debuts "Pirate Shores"**

On June 21, LEGOLAND California® debuts "Pirate Shores," a new block of water attractions and the largest expansion since the family theme park opened in 1999. The pirate-themed area features four water-play attractions, including Treasure Falls, a mini-water flume ride where guests drop in—nearly 12 feet—on a few vacationing pirates. Log-shaped boats float by hard-working LEGO® buccaneers relaxing in a thermal spa or lounging in their beach chairs amidst a tropical jungle. Soak-N-Sail combines more than 60 interactive water play features aboard a shipwrecked pirate vessel. Younger guests can enjoy their own watery fun at Swabbies Deck where they're surrounded by pop-up water jets, water fountains and squirt cannons. The cornerstone of the new area is the water-play ride Splash Battle, the only attraction of its kind in North America. Splash Battle features pirate ships that give children and their families the chance to cruise through pirate-infested waters equipped with their very own water cannons. Each pirate-ship vehicle can carry four passengers on an exciting high-seas adventure through twists, turns and magnificent scenes including exploding volcanoes, roving bands of pirates and a scary sail-through skull. Riders taking this voyage are destined to get wet as both they

and the spectators are armed to the teeth with water cannons to take their best watery shot at one another. Media contact: Kelly Spicer, LEGOLAND, (760) 918-5379, [Kelly.Spicer@LEGOLAND.com](mailto:Kelly.Spicer@LEGOLAND.com). Public contact: (760) 918-LEGO (5346), [www.LEGOLAND.com](http://www.LEGOLAND.com).

### **Maritime Museum of San Diego—Taming the Pacific Swell**

The latest exhibit at the Maritime Museum of San Diego, "Taming the Pacific Swell" runs March 11, 2006 to January 8, 2007 and traces the history of modern surfing from its humble Hawaiian beginnings to the billion dollar industry it is today, using changes in surfboard design to illustrate the evolution of the sport. Displaying rare surfboards, memorabilia, photographs, and artifacts from the collections of the California Surf Museum, the exhibition illustrates the dramatic impact of legendary surfers and innovative surfboard designers that fueled the meteoric rise of surfing's popularity in Southern California. Media contact: Michael Shanahan, Maritime Museum of San Diego, (619) 234-9153 ext. 123, [shanahan@sdmaritime.org](mailto:shanahan@sdmaritime.org). Public contact: (619) 234-9153, [www.sdmaritime.org](http://www.sdmaritime.org).

### **MoPA Examines Photojournalism**

From May 7 to September 17, the San Diego Museum of Photographic Arts will offer three exhibitions that celebrate photojournalism. "Breaking the Frame: Pioneering Women in Photojournalism" features images from the 1930s to 1950s by six women photographers who revolutionized the field of photojournalism. "Shooting in 35: The First 35mm Photographs" exhibits the first images made with the "new" 35mm camera from 1928 to 1936. "Today's Pioneers: Women Photojournalists in Iraq and Afghanistan" examines the work of two award-winning photographers, Andrea Bruce of the Washington Post and Stephanie Sinclair, formerly of the Chicago Tribune. Media contact: Candice Eley, Museum of Photographic Arts, (619) 238-7559 x203, [pr@mopa.org](mailto:pr@mopa.org). Public contact: (619) 238-7559, [www.mopa.org](http://www.mopa.org).

### **Natural History Museum to Add Fossil Exhibit**

The San Diego Natural History Museum is undergoing construction of its "Fossil Mysteries" exhibit, the first permanent exhibition at the museum. Set to open in summer 2006, the interactive exhibit will invite visitors to play the role of paleontologists and unfold the prehistory of Southern California and the peninsula of Baja California. The exhibit will explore San Diego fossils and themes of extinction, ecology and earth's processes. Media contact: Jessica Holmes Chatigny, San Diego Natural History Museum, (619) 255-0241, [jholmes@sdnhm.org](mailto:jholmes@sdnhm.org). Public contact: (619) 232-3821, [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org).

### **Party in the Hangar**

A new event venue is now available for parties and corporate events in North County San Diego—the 10,000 square-foot hangar of Biplane, Air Combat & Warbird. For a unique ambiance, the hangar has up to six vintage planes dating from the 1920s to the 1940s both inside and outside the hangar. Additionally, crew dressed in flight suits keep guest events running smoothly and 1920s-era honky tonk piano music, WWII-era big band music or Vietnam-era Top Gun music help set the tone. Additional hangar fun includes formation training on tricycles, space shuttle and carrier landings on the company's state-of-the-art flight simulator, paper airplane contests and a variety of other team building activities. The company can also entertain up to 14 guests per hour with open cockpit biplane rides, authentic aerial dogfights in real aircraft, and loops and rolls in a WWII North American SNJ-4. Media contact: Kate Lister, Biplane, Air Combat & Warbird Adventures, (760) 930-0903, [kate@barnstorming.com](mailto:kate@barnstorming.com). Public contact: (800) 759-5667, [www.barnstorming.com](http://www.barnstorming.com).

### **San Diego Museum of Man Features Body Art**

From May 12, 2006 to March 27, 2007, the San Diego Museum of Man examines the enduring art form of tattooing, piercing, painting and scarring the body in "Body Ornamentation: Artistic Representation of Self." While body ornamentation is often seen as a modern phenomenon, the exhibition traces its roots to ancient nomadic gypsies in India and the Middle East, and highlights the many different types of body art in a variety of world cultures and the reasons behind it. The exhibition also showcases tools used for body decoration, such as chisels and mallets, and decorative ornaments, such as belly rings, lip plates and ear rods. Media contact: Sydnie Moore, PR consultant, (619) 283-8896, [moore2com@aol.com](mailto:moore2com@aol.com). Public contact: Museum of Man, (619) 239-2001, [www.museumofman.org](http://www.museumofman.org).

### **San Diego Zoo Wild Animal Park Balloon Safari and Carousel**

A bird's eye view of wildlife roaming the park can be seen from a Balloon Safari modeled after the hot air balloon tours of the Serengeti. Holding up to 30 passengers, the tethered helium balloon rises 400 feet in the air for a panoramic view of the 1,800-acre park and the beautiful San Pascual Valley. Also new at the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park, for kids and kids at heart, the colorful Conservation Carousel features 60 ride elements to choose from, many of which replicate rare and endangered animals. Visitors can ride giraffes, rhinos, zebras, cheetahs, and more. Media contact: Yadira Galindo, San Diego Zoo, (619) 685-3291, [ygalindo@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:ygalindo@sandiegozoo.org). Public contact: (619) 231-1515, [www.sandiegozoo.org](http://www.sandiegozoo.org).

### **SeaWorld San Diego**

SeaWorld San Diego, along with SeaWorld Orlando and SeaWorld San Antonio, has embarked on the most ambitious killer whale show in the history of the parks. "Believe," the new Shamu show, blends new killer whale behaviors with elaborate set pieces, music, choreography and state-of-the-art multimedia. The magnificent presence of Shamu is reflected in a new two-story stage. A giant water fountain sprays across the width of the show pool; three new underwater cameras capture Shamu below the surface; a giant three-story whale tail soars high above the set; and four LED screens move and rotate as they highlight the power and beauty of Shamu and his crew. The new show's audio system is also one of the most sophisticated systems in the world, and many of the whales' new behaviors will be choreographed to Believe's original and inspiring musical score. Media contact: Darla Davis, SeaWorld San Diego, (619) 226-3829, [Darla.Davis@SeaWorld.com](mailto:Darla.Davis@SeaWorld.com). Public contact: (800) 25-SHAMU or (619) 226-3915, [www.seaworld.com](http://www.seaworld.com).

### **THE US GRANT—**

#### **A Luxury Collection Hotel**

For only the second time in 94 years, THE US GRANT Hotel closed her doors to the public in January 2005 to begin a \$52 million renovation and restoration. The hotel will debut in October 2006 as part of the Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide's prestigious Luxury Collection. The historic hotel will offer 270 guestrooms including 47 suites, the famous Grant Grill, opulent public areas and 33,000 square feet of event space, all renovated and refurbished to weave the original 1910 ambiance with contemporary elegance and atmosphere. The hotel will unveil a luxury hotel of unparalleled caliber and quality in the region, elevating the property to a four-star status. Media contact: Mark Dibella, THE US GRANT, (619) 744-2027, [mark.dibella@luxurycollection.com](mailto:mark.dibella@luxurycollection.com). Public contact: (619) 232-3121, [usgrant@usgrant.net](mailto:usgrant@usgrant.net), [www.luxurycollection.com/usgrant](http://www.luxurycollection.com/usgrant).





### **Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit is First for Natural History Museum**

Coming to the Natural History Museum in July to December 2007 is the "Dead Sea Scrolls"

exhibition. For the first time ever, the Israel Antiquities Authority is partnering with the museum to bring a select number of these scrolls, the oldest discovered copies of biblical manuscripts, to San Diego. The scrolls were written on parchment and papyrus in both Hebrew and Aramaic around 250 B.C. to 70 C.E. The first was discovered by a goat herder in 1947 near the Dead Sea in Israel. Media contact: Jessica Holmes Chatigny, San Diego Natural History Museum, (619) 255-0241, [jholmes@sdnhm.org](mailto:jholmes@sdnhm.org). Public contact: (619) 232-3821, [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org).

### **Griffith Observatory Restoration**

The long-awaited reopening of the landmark Griffith Observatory is set for fall 2006. The 70-year-old art deco building has been undergoing a restoration and expansion totaling more than \$90 million. The 35,000-square-foot addition, most of which is underground, will feature five new exhibition halls, the 200-seat Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater and an education center. In addition, the newly named Samuel Oschin Planetarium is being upgraded with state-of-the-art digital projection technology and a new Zeiss Mark IX planetarium projector. Upgrades are also taking place at the gift shop, restaurant (featuring Wolfgang Puck cuisine), the rooftop terrace (for disabled accessibility), and the façade, which is being restored to its original form. Media contact: Dana Green, Shepley Winings Diamond Public Relations, (818) 760-7131, [dgreen@swdpr.com](mailto:dgreen@swdpr.com); or Jane Kolb, City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks, (213) 928-9294; [jkolb@rap.lacity.org](mailto:jkolb@rap.lacity.org). Public contact: Griffith Observatory, (323) 664-1181, [info@griffithobs.org](mailto:info@griffithobs.org), [www.griffithobs.org](http://www.griffithobs.org).

### **Hard Rock Hotel San Diego**

The Hard Rock Hotel San Diego is currently under construction and slated to open spring 2007 in the downtown historic Gaslamp Quarter. The 12-story property will be the city's first branded condo-hotel, with 420 luxury rooms and suites for sale to individual buyers. The property embraces the trademark rock 'n' roll attitude and spectacular nightlife, featuring a signature restaurant operated by NOBU and an ultra lounge and sky bar by Rande Gerber. The hotel will house a world-class spa and fitness center, state-of-the-art screening room, landscaped outdoor pool deck with private cabana, a 7,000 square-foot music venue, retail boutiques and 40,000 square-feet of meeting and banquet space. Units for sale will range from studios to rock star suites, all with a hip, electric vibe featuring LCD "floating" cantilevered furniture, home theatre entertainment centers featuring LCD televisions, CD/DVD and iPod connections, a martini bar, plush feather-top bedding, 300-thread count cotton linens, oversized work stations, Wi-Fi Internet access and a laptop safe. Media contact: Joe Timko, San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau, (619) 557-2812, [jtimko@sdcvb.org](mailto:jtimko@sdcvb.org). Public contact: Hard Rock Hotel San Diego, (877) 503-ROCK, [www.hardrockcondos.com](http://www.hardrockcondos.com).

### **London LA**

LXR Luxury Resorts recently announced its plans for the complete redesign, refurbishment and repositioning of one of its prized California properties, the Bel Age in West Hollywood, into The London LA. The all-suite hotel will undergo a complete transformation, including a change of name, new interior architecture and design, and the addition of two Gordon Ramsay high-end restaurants. Mr. Ramsay is one of the U.K.'s only chefs to receive three stars from the prestigious Michelin Guide. Internationally recognized designer David Collins has sought to rethink the entire look of the existing hotel to transform it into London LA, reinventing the existing architecture of the rooms to create a certain Anglo-European attitude and creating an environment that reflects the premier service and the unique DNA of what will become the London brand. Luxury bath purveyor Waterworks has created, in collaboration

with Collins, complete Waterworks bathroom environments in each suite. Further enhancing the guest experience will be the addition of the Golden Door Spa. The archetype against which all other spa experiences are judged, The Golden Door will revitalize even the most weary traveler with a selection of massages, therapeutic baths, and treatments. The spa will open upon the hotel's debut as the London LA in spring 2007. Media contact: Amy Campbell, LXR Luxury Resorts, (310) 358-7744, [acampbell@LuxuryResorts.com](mailto:acampbell@LuxuryResorts.com). Public contact: (561) 347-4242.

### **Northstar-at-Tahoe to be Home for New Ritz-Carlton**

Lake Tahoe's first five-star luxury hotel will become a reality after East West Partners and Crescent Real Estate Equities signed a letter this spring to develop the 172-room property, the Ritz-Carlton Highlands, Lake Tahoe. The property will also include 75 Ritz Carlton (full ownership) Residences, the Ritz-Carlton Club, offering 77 residences for deeded fractional ownership, a world-class spa, several pools, and on-site meeting and event space. The \$300 million project is slated to begin this summer with a projected opening in late 2009. Media contact: Katrina Paz, Gilwee Public Relations, (530) 273-6528, [Katrina@gilweepr.com](mailto:Katrina@gilweepr.com). Public contact: Northstar-at-Tahoe, [www.northstarattahoe.com](http://www.northstarattahoe.com), Ritz-Carlton, [www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com).

### **Otay Ranch Town Center**

Otay Ranch Town Center, San Diego County's first major shopping mall in 20 years, is opening in October 2006 in the South Bay city of Chula Vista. The Center's lifestyle retail concept will combine aspects of a regional mall with an old-fashioned town square and include a pedestrian-friendly "Main Street" - type street layout, lush courtyards, fountains, and a dog park. Located on 85 acres off of Olympic Parkway, close to the U.S. Olympic Training Center, the open-air Otay Ranch will feature 80 upscale specialty stores, such as Anthropologie and REI, and several restaurants, such as Cheesecake Factory, P.F. Changs and Nestle Tollhouse Café. Media and public contact: [www.chulavista.com/mall/](http://www.chulavista.com/mall/).

### **San Luis Obispo Children's Museum**

The new San Luis Obispo Children's Museum is scheduled to open in late fall 2006. The completely rebuilt museum will be located in downtown San Luis Obispo and will have double the space for permanent and rotating exhibits. The museum's "town square" will feature a 17-foot-high clock tower climbing experience, a ride on trolley and child-size replica of San Luis Obispo's Thursday Night Farmer's Market. Children ages four and under can play and explore in an expanded early childhood learning space, complete with a larger than life size replica of BRIO's wooden toy engine. Media contact: Roy Mueller, San Luis Obispo Children's Museum, (805) 545-5874, [www.slokids.org](http://www.slokids.org). Public contact: (805) 545-5874, [www.slokids.org](http://www.slokids.org).

### **Town and Country Resort & Convention Center**

The Town and Country Resort & Convention Center in San Diego completed Phase I of a \$25 million expansion and enhancement that include the grand opening of the 14,000-square-foot Bella Tosca Spa, Salon & Fitness Center. Phase II is underway with the addition of the new 41,000-square-foot exhibit hall (opening early 2007) located next to the existing Atlas Ballroom and Golden Pacific Ballroom. Phase II also includes the restyling of 1,000 guest rooms, suites and ballrooms, the restoration of pool and landscaping of the "Grand Plaza" in the center of the property, and the creation of new property borders and entrances to the resort. A new entrance to the Royal Palm Tower with a pedestrian promenade will be added to connect the resort to San Diego's regional light-rail system and Fashion Valley Shopping

Center's upscale department stores, shops, restaurants and theaters. Media and public contact: Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, (619) 291-7131, [www.towncountry.com](http://www.towncountry.com).



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